



Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly
Conseil des Présidents de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies

UNCPGA New York 2026 Declaration

1. The Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (UNCPGA) convened in New York on 19 September 2026, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting was attended by 12 Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly. The Council congratulates H.E. Dr. Khalilur Rahman on his resumption of the Presidency of the current 81st UN General Assembly Session and pledges its full support for his work and leadership. The Council also expresses its sincere gratitude to H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly, for her leadership of the Assembly during the past year.
2. The Council discussed the crisis of multilateralism in international relations and its deep-going impact on the future of the United Nations. The Council is particularly concerned by the growing violations of the United Nations Charter and that unilateralism is supplanting multilateralism as an accepted mode of State conduct. As a stark demonstration of increasing unilateralism is the absence of any legally binding or verifiable nuclear arms control agreement between the world's major nuclear-weapon states and continued massive nuclear arms race. Risk of nuclear war is further compounded by rapid development of AI assisted technology and increasingly open discourse regarding the potential use of tactical nuclear weapons, by the erosion of established doctrines of nuclear deterrence, and by efforts by additional States to acquire nuclear weapons capability. The Council therefore calls for an urgent convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to address the growing risk of nuclear conflict and the establishment of verifiable multilateral nuclear arms control measures.
3. The Council also noted with great concern the on-going major war in Europe involving the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the war in the Middle East between the United States, Israel, and Iran. These two major regional conflicts have already caused catastrophic economic, financial, social, developmental and humanitarian consequences on a global scale, including widespread risks of major famine outbreaks, increased poverty and setbacks for development efforts in the Global South. They also have increased inflation and instability in the global financial system and energy markets. The civilian population in the belligerent countries has been the main victim of increasingly violent drone, ballistic and other attacks and the Council strongly condemns these bombings against civilians, amounting to war crimes, and demands that they should be stopped immediately.
4. At the same time, the military battlefields of the two wars in Europe and the Middle East are expanding horizontally and vertically and exhibit an increasing tendency to converge into a single, interconnected theatre of conflict. The Council expresses grave concern about the potential further escalation of these conflicts which could increase the risk of the use of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, accidentally or by intent. The Council reiterates its earlier call to the UN Secretary-General to urgently utilize his good offices, including the possible use of Article 99 of the UN Charter, to facilitate a comprehensive solution to these two major regional conflicts.

5. In light of the current inability of the UN Security Council to urgently discharge its primary responsibility for the maintenance of International Peace and Security in regard to these two major conflicts, the Council calls on the UN General Assembly to take the following urgent measures:

- a. The Council encourages the President of the General Assembly to initiate consultations with Member States on the feasibility of convening the General Assembly on an urgent basis, under the Uniting for Peace mechanism or other innovative means, to address all aspects of the crises in the Middle East and Europe: political, economic, financial, humanitarian, developmental and environmental considerations.
- b. The Council also urges the President of the General Assembly to convene an urgent meeting with the Heads of the Principal Organs of the United Nations, in particular, the President of the Security Council, the President of ECOSOC, the UN Secretary-General, and the heads of relevant UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes — with a view to examining how best the UN system can be mobilized to address all dimensions and global repercussions of the wars in the Middle East and Europe, including the implementation of any future peace agreements between parties. The outcome of this consultation should be reported to the proposed UN General Assembly session.

6. The Council reaffirms its previous call for a fully democratic, transparent, inclusive, merit-based and gender-responsive process for the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in full accordance with the UN Charter and the relevant UN Rules of Procedure. The Council welcomed the recommendations in this regard put forward by the President of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in her recent letter of 4 September 2026, to all Member States, which deserve serious consideration. In this context, the Council calls on the UN General Assembly to play its full role to ensure that the election of the UN Secretary-General takes place through a fully democratic, transparent, and inclusive process and calls on the President of the UN General Assembly to work closely with the President of the UN Security Council to ensure this outcome.

7. While welcoming the current UN 80 reform initiative, the Council calls on the next UN Secretary-General to launch a further major initiative in close consultation with Member States to overhaul, streamline, and revitalize the Organization, particularly its working procedures with a view to ensuring more efficient and impactful delivery of the mandates entrusted to it by the UN General Assembly and other relevant legislative UN organs and bodies. In this context the Council also calls for a comprehensive review of the financial efficacy and sustainability of the United Nations system including the early resolution of its growing financial crisis caused by the alarming increase of the financial arrears of its Member States in violation of the UN Charter.

8. The Council welcomed the recent convening by the UN Secretary-General of the UN Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance. In this context, the Council noted that while there have been several UN General Assembly resolutions, UN Secretary-General's reports and panels, three UN Security Council sessions about current forms of AI, regrettably they all have failed to address the growing risks of the rapid evolution of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). The Council urges the President of the General Assembly to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special briefing to Member States dedicated to AGI governance, drawing on the recommendations of UNCPGA's High-Level Expert Panel on AGI, namely: (a) the establishment of a global AGI observatory; (b) a certification system for secure and trustworthy AGI; (c) a UN convention on AGI; and (d) the creation of an international AGI agency.

**The President of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly, who attended the meeting, is not associated with this Declaration, which was adopted by consensus by the members of the Council of Presidents of the UN General Assembly (UNCPGA).*